



Massachusetts National Guard

Public Affairs

50 Maple Street, Milford, MA 01757

Media Advisory

POINT OF CONTACT:

Phone: (508) 233-6560

Maj. Winfield Danielson

E-mail: winfield.danielson@us.army.mil

Nov. 8, 2006

Army National Guard Aviators Return from Middle East

CAMP EDWARDS, Mass. – One hundred and eighty soldiers from the Massachusetts Army National Guard's 3rd Battalion 126th Aviation Regiment, will return here 12 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 9 after serving a year in Iraq and Kuwait.

The unit's mission was to operate and maintain UH-60 "Black Hawk" helicopters, which were used for troop movement, medical evacuation and resupply operations. The soldiers served as pilots, crew chiefs, vehicle operators, administrative specialists and in other support assignments.

The unit was based in Kuwait, but regularly flew missions in Iraq.

The 3-126th's arrival will be informal, and the soldiers will be released as soon as possible to spend time with their families. A formal homecoming and awards ceremony will be held at a later date.

"The mobility these soldiers brought to the table provided a critical advantage to commanders in Iraq," said Brig. Gen. Oliver J. Mason Jr., The Adjutant General of the Massachusetts National Guard. "We're proud of their achievements and grateful to have them home safe."

**MEDIA ARE INVITED TO THIS EVENT AND MUST REGISTER AT THE NUMBER ABOVE AND
MEET AT THE BOURNE GATE AT 12 P.M. NOV 9, 2006**

WHAT: Return of the 3rd Battalion 126th Aviation Regiment from the Middle East
WHEN: 12 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 9, 2006
WHERE: Meet at the Mass. Military Reservation Bourne Gate, you will be escorted to Army Aviation Support Facility One, BLDG #2816 (Hanger), 2822 Richardson Road, Camp Edwards, Mass.

- ## -

Public Affairs Office

Phone: (508) 233-6561

Fax: (508) 233-6585